

Washington, D.C. - Today, Congressman Costa responded to the unfortunate news that Lemoore Naval Air Station (Lemoore NAS), which is located in Fresno and Kings Counties, has been included on the initial list of this year's round of base closures.

"I respectfully disagree with the Department of Defense's decision to close Lemoore Naval Air Station. The base provides a great service to the nation and community. I will be very active in the review process and will do everything I can to reverse this decision," stated Costa.

Congressman Costa received the information this morning and stressed that is not a final decision. "While this list is the Base Realignment and Closure Commissioners' recommendations, the final decision will not be made for several months. Just as I have been very active in contacting the Department of Defense and President Bush before the decision was made, I will continue to do everything possible to keep Lemoore open," Costa said.

Over the last several months, Congressman Costa has contacted Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld and President Bush several times regarding the important work that Lemoore NAS does for the Central Valley and the protection the base provides the West Coast.

Lemoore Naval Air Station is a key component to the Navy's Pacific Fleet operations. The base is home to ten combat ready strike fighter squadrons trained to conduct carrier-based, all weather, attack, fighter and support missions for the Pacific Fleet. In addition, Lemoore NAS conducts joint training missions with Army and National Guard aircraft located nearby.

"I believe that moving Lemoore would jeopardize the homeland security interests of the Central Valley and all people in California. I strongly oppose the Commissioners' decision to close this base," concluded Costa.

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